

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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SUBJECT: DAILYNEWS ON "US INTERVENTION"

THE JANUARY 15 DAILYNEWS EDITORIAL IS REPEATED IN ITS ENTIRETY FOR THE PARANOID, BUT NOT IMPLAUSIBLE TO THEM, VIEW IT HOLDS ON THE QUESTION OF THE POSITION OF MINI-STATES' RELATIONS WITH THE US.

" US INTERVENTION

IN A RECENT STATEMENT, US SECRETARY OF DEFENCE JAMES SCHLESINGER DECLARED THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC MIGHT DEMAND MILITARY INTERVENTION IF THE ARAB STATES CARRIED THEIR OIL EMBARGO TOO FAR. AND WHILE WE MAY BE INCLINED TO DOUBT HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE WISHES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, STILL, SCHLESINGER IS HEAD OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT US EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND HIS STATEMENT MUST BE TREATED SERIOUSLY.

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME NOW THAT US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE RESORTED TO SUCH OPEN THREATS. IN FACT, SINCE THE 'BIG-STICK'

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DIPLOMACY OF FORMER PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT, IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF US PRESIDENTS AND OFFICIALS TO AT LEAST TRY AND

APPEAR AS IF THEY HAD ABSOLUTE RIGHT ON THEIR SIDE.

SINCE WORLD WAR II, MILITARY INTERVENTION HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN THE NAME OF THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISM, OR TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF US CITIZENS. SO WHY THIS RESORT NOW TO OPEN THREATS? AND WHAT MAKES THIS ALL THE MORE INTERESTING ARE

THREE SETS OF FACTS CONCERNING THE CONTEMPORARY US SITUATION

AT THE TOP OF THE LIST IS THE FACT THAT FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN THEIR DISLIKE FOR US MILITARY ACTIVITIES. THEY NO LONGER SEEMED TO BE ROUSED BY THE COMMUNIST BOGEY. AND WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE SAYING IS LEAVE OTHER PEOPLE TO FIGHT THEIR OWN BATTLES. THEY DON'T SEEM TO CARE WHETHER OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE UNDER "DEMOCRACY" OR NOT. AND SINCE WATERGATE, THERE IS A SINCERE DOUBT WHETHER THE US BRAND IS EVEN WORTH EXPORTING.

THE SECOND FACT IS WHICH STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB, IS THAT THE US OF ALL NATIONS STANDS TO LESE LEAST BY THE OIL CRISIS. ITS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAS NOT BEEN HURT, AND IT HAS THE TIME AND MONEY TO PRODUCE OTHER ENERGY SOURCES.

BUT IT IS THE THIRD FACT WHICH MAKES THIS MATTER MOST INTERESTING. FOR IF ANYTHING CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE US AT THE PRESENT TIME, IT IS THAT THAT NATION IS NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO THROW ITS WEIGHT AROUND THE WORLD. IT IS NO LONGER THE WORLD'S ONLY FIRST-RATE MILITARY POWER, AND WHERE ECONOMICS IS CONCERNED THERE IS MORE THAN ONE RIVAL ON THE SCENE.

AND BECAUSE OF THIS THE DAYS ARE GONE WHEN THE US COULD OBTAIN INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS AT THE CHEAPEST POSSIBLE PRICES. ANY INTERVENTION THEN, WOULD BRING IT INTO OPEN CONFLICT WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHO HAS CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF THE ARABAS ALL ALONG.

BUT IF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THAT AREA IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, WE ARE STILL LEFT WITH THE QUESTION AS TO WHY SCHLESINGER MADE THIS OBVIOUSLY PROVOCATIVE REMARK. AND THE ONLY REASONABLE ANSWER IS THAT IT WAS NOT MEANT FOR THE ARABS AT ALL. IT WAS MEANT AS A WARNING TO THOSE SMALLER NATIONS WHO PRESENTLY SUPPLY THE US WITH RAW MATERIALS AND WHO ARE NOT PRESENTLY PROTECTED BY SOME OPPOSING MILITARY ALLIANCE, NOT TO PLAN ANY SIMILAR PRICE HIKE FOR THEIR PRIMARY COMMODITIES.

IF THIS IS SO, THEN WE IN JAMAICA CAN CONSIDER OURSELVES TO HAVE BEEN WARNED. AND BECAUSE OUR PRIME MINISTER HAS QUITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CORRECTLY SEEN THAT THE ONLY WAY TO COMBAT THE OIL PRICE IS TO REGULATE THE PRICES OF OUR BANANAS, SUGAR AND BAUXITE, WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO BEAR SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT IN MIND. UNQUOTE.
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